(c) and (d) Initially a plot of land measuring 34 acres was handed over to Bihar State Housing Board (BSHB) in 1978. However, BSHB informed FCI in 1986 that the said plot was in the coal bearing zone as per certificate issued by Chief of Geology, Bharat Coking Coal Ltd., Bihar and requested for an alternate land in Manoharland and Saharpura area. There was no follow up of this case by BSHB for some years and the matter was again revived by BSHB only in June, 1992.

Import of Fertilizers

4620. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the import of nitrogenous, phosphatic and potassic fertilisers in last three years; and

(b) what steps the Ministry is taking to increase the fertilizer application?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) The following quantities of fertilizers have been imported during the last three years:

(In lakh tonnes)

Commodity	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92
Finished Fertilizers			
UREA	..	..	3.91
DAP	28.15	21.55	20.77
MOP	20.82	21.20	20.40
SOP	0.25	0.59	..
NPK	1.09	1.56	0.73

(b) Broadly the Government have taken following steps to increase the fertilizer application:

(i) The major chemical fertilizers are being made available to the farmers at subsidized rates.

(ii) The Government of India implemented a scheme during the 7th Plan for opening retail outlets in remote and inaccessible areas.

(iii) Fertilizer use in small packs is being popularised to facilitate transportation to remote areas and to encourage use of fertilizers, among small farmers.

(iv) The States have been advised to exempt the dealers, upto a limit of 10 tonnes of fertilizers, from the requirement of obtaining dealership registration certificate for enhancing easy availability of fertilizers.

(v) The use of micronutrients is being popularised for improving the fertilizer use efficiency in intensively cultivated areas.

(vi) Demonstration of benefits of fertilizer use and balanced/efficient application of fertilizers is being organised by State Agricultural Expansion agencies.

(vii) Soil testing facilities are being strengthened to assist farmers with appropriate advice on proper use of fertilizers.